

Residents of Mason flooded the newspaper office with letters about French's good works, after the staff solicited nominations from the community this spring.

"All of Mary Lou's work in this community bears out her legacy," wrote Rex Hauser.

Others cited her willingness to reach out and help whenever it's needed.

"She is well known in the community and a person who people look to when no one else would take on a job," stated Cherie Mitchell. "Someone could say, 'Oh, let Mary Lou do it!' and it would get done."

Rachel Tear, office manager at the Presbyterian Church wrote that French's volunteer work within the congregation propels many activities forward. "Our church activities would come to a grinding halt if Mary Lou ever quit, so we would like your help in showing her how much we appreciate all that she does."

Among French's work with the church is her involvement in Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and Thanksgiving and spring pie sales aimed at raising money for the annual Relay for Life efforts.

French is also a member of the unofficial 'Flower Power Group' that maintains flower beds at the Ingham County Fairgrounds. When the fair is open, French is often in charge of exhibits.

Mary Lou extends herself to the limit," wrote Marie Wingo. "If you ever needed anything she would be the first to step up and help."

But French said volunteering as been as good to her as it has to the community.

"It's just personally very satisfying and I've gained a lot of good friends and people I've learned to love because of it," she said.

On Tuesday, May 10, newspaper staff and community members will honor French with a luncheon at Mason City Hall.

Still, those who know her understand that French isn't accustomed to or comfortable with the spotlight.

"The only 'down side' to this nomination may be Mary Lou's humble acceptance that she has not been honored before," wrote Hauser. "Her reward has been precisely only in the 'doing for others,' I am sure, from her point of view."

French said she is grateful for the recognition but would rather not accept it.

"There are so many other people who do so much work," she said. "I feel very honored that I am getting it but that's not why I volunteer."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Mary Lou French for her commitment to serving the community. We are honored to support her efforts and extend appreciation for her tireless community volunteer outreach. Mary Lou French is truly deserving of our respect and admiration.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SUSAN DAWSON

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the accomplishments of Susan Dawson, who teaches at Specht Elementary School in the Comal Independent School District.

Today's teachers not only serve as educators but also as friends and sometimes even role-models to their students. Susan Dawson

is one of those teachers. Not only does she present the mere "textbook" information but she treats her students as if they were family. Ms. Dawson realizes that students are unique and because of this they require different approaches to being taught. This methodology of universal teaching has made Ms. Dawson the successful teacher she is today.

Receiving her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Texas State University in San Marcos, Ms. Dawson has accompanied her degrees with 9 years of experience in the classroom to establish a greater understanding of what students need from their teachers.

It is for this commitment that she has proved herself to be an invaluable asset to the students of Comal County, and it is with great honor that I recognize her here today.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES BORTHWICK AND EDWARD BOYLE

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association in paying tribute to two of the Kansas City metropolitan area attorneys of distinction, James Borthwick and Edward Boyle. Today the Bar Association is presenting them with its Deans of the Trial Bar Award at their Bench-Bar & Boardroom Conference at the Lake of the Ozarks. Both of these gentlemen are longtime leaders of both the Kansas City metropolitan area's bar and of their home communities.

James (Jim) Borthwick is a partner with the firm of Blackwell Sanders Peper Martin LLP, of Kansas City, Missouri. A magna cum laude graduate of Central College with a J.D. from the University of Michigan, he joined the Blackwell firm as an associate in 1964. With a practice focused on litigation in the areas of business and commercial activity, insurance and intellectual property, Jim defended accounting firms against claims of professional liability and manufacturers against products liability claims. He has handled more than 75 accountant and lawyer malpractice cases to conclusion over the last 20 years and was lead trial counsel in defense of a suit by the Resolution Trust Corporation/Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation against the former directors of Franklin Savings Association; the jury verdict for the defendant was described as one of the biggest defense wins of 1996 by the National Law Journal.

Just as importantly, Jim Borthwick has been active in a wide variety of community and charitable organizations, including: the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, the Friends of Art, the Friends of the Zoo, the Johnson County Democratic Party, the State Committee of the Kansas Democratic Party, Kansas City Consensus, United Community Services of Johnson County, and the Village Presbyterian Church. Professionally, he is affiliated with: the American Bar Association and its Tort and Insurance Practice Section, the Defense Research Institute, the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association, the Missouri Bar Association, and the Lawyers Association of Kansas City, where he has served on the Board of Directors and as President.

Edward Boyle is of counsel with the firm of McCormick, Adam & Long, of Overland Park, Kansas. A magna cum laude graduate of the University of Notre Dame and an Order of the Coif graduate of the University of Kansas School of Law, where he was editor in chief of the University of Kansas Law Review, Edward Boyle also served as LTJG in the United States Navy from 1960–62. His practice areas include: complex litigation, land use and zoning, medical malpractice, medical products and devices, wrongful death and motor vehicle accidents. Prior to entering private practice, he served as Special Assistant Attorney General of Kansas for Antitrust from 1971–74.

Edward Boyle also has been actively involved in professional activities, serving as secretary of the Kansas State Board of Discipline for Attorneys from 1978–80, member of the Johnson County, Kansas and American Bar Associations (including as secretary of the Johnson County Bar in 1967), the Kansas Trial Lawyers Association and the Kansas Inns of Court.

Mr. Speaker, both of these distinguished gentlemen reflect creditably upon their profession and their communities. I am pleased to take note of the honors they are being awarded by the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association and I commend them to you and to our colleagues in the House of Representatives.

HONORING THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE CITY OF MALAKOFF

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to congratulate the citizens of Malakoff, Texas, on their Sesquicentennial celebration on April 30, 2005. For the last 150 years, Malakoff has been home to fine families and a wonderful community rich in the traditions of East Texas.

According to the Handbook of Texas, the area we now know as Malakoff was first settled by Jane Irvine, a widow from Alabama, who immigrated with her family to the area before 1835. Once settled in Texas, they built a gristmill on Caney Creek, and a small community grew up around the mill. In 1852 the name was changed to Mitcham Chapel after a Methodist church of the same name organized by the Rev. Hezekiah Mitcham.

Around 1855 the city fathers applied for a post office under the suggested names of Mitcham or Purdon. Both names had already been used. The Postmaster, who had been reading about the Crimean War, suggested the name Malakoff, after a Russian town that had gained prominence during the war.

Since that time, Malakoff has grown, but it has always maintained its small town East Texas roots. Lying at the gateway of East Texas, Malakoff boasts award-winning schools and plays host to the annual Malakoff Cornbread Festival.

During their Sesquicentennial celebration this year, the citizens of Malakoff can be proud of their past and optimistic about their future. As Congressman for the Fifth District of Texas, it is a privilege to represent them in the United States House of Representatives. On